From: Association of Deputy District Attorneys
To: Kutches, Brandon (SHF)
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Courts / Rulings

Former inmate wins in appeals court again, keeping his long-running lawsuit against a prison doctor alive
A former prison inmate whose nearly two-decade-long battle to get a lawsuit against a prison doctor heard in court resulted in a landmark state Supreme Court ruling in July, won again this week when an appeals court again ruled in his favor. A unanimous three-judge panel of the 4th District Court of Appeal in San Diego reversed a lower court ruling that dismissed the suit because it had taken too long to get to trial.
San Diego Union-Tribune

Court reverses conviction in Hollywood homeless killing spree
The California Supreme Court Monday reversed the convictions of an accused killer from Los Angeles because the jury trial wasn't stopped - even after the defendant showed signs he had returned to a state of mental incompetence. The opinion means Domingo Linares Rodas could receive a new trial, so long as he is deemed competent to stand trial. The high court's decision noted Rodas' long history with mental illness.
NBC4 Los Angeles

C.A. upholds officer's suspension for 'ethnic' remark relating to race
The Court of Appeal for this district has upheld the 10-day suspension of a Los Angeles Police Department officer for making a racist remark, holding that the officer's disciplinary proceedings comported with due process. The unpublished opinion, filed Wednesday, was authored by Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Gary Micon, sitting on assignment in Div. Four.
Metropolitan News-Enterprise

Supreme Court considers a thorny question of free speech and police power
The Supreme Court considered on Monday whether to allow lawsuits claiming abuse of police power in retaliation for exercising free speech rights. The case concerned a claim for retaliatory arrest at a festival in a remote part of Alaska, but several justices seemed to have an array of controversies in mind.
New York Times

Veteran L.A. dive team firefighter wins $2.75 million in retaliation lawsuit
A veteran firefighter who said he suffered a backlash after reporting that Los Angeles Fire Department personnel and members of the dive team were wrongfully destroying and discarding property bought with federal funds was awarded $2.75 million Wednesday.
City News Service

Ruling in genital mutilation case shocks women's advocates

Women's rights advocates said they were shocked when a federal judge in Michigan ruled this week that a law protecting girls from genital mutilation was unconstitutional. They called his decision a serious blow to girls' rights. Legal experts said the judge made clear that U.S. states have authority to ban the practice, though only about half do.
NBC4 Los Angeles

After 22 years, Bay Area man sentenced to life for murder may walk free
James Earl Rivera was 32 years old when he was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole, the state's harshest prison sentence. Now, 22 years later, he's expected to walk out a free man thanks to a new state law. While he sat in prison, his 16-year-old son, James Rivera Jr., was fatally shot by Stockton police.
Bay Area News Group

Murder on American Indian land? Supreme Court weighs fate of convicted killer, tribal reservation borders
When Patrick Murphy mutilated and murdered his girlfriend's former lover in eastern Oklahoma in 1999, state authorities arrested and charged him with murder in state court. He was convicted and sentenced to death in 2000.
ABC News

Ninth Circuit finds sentence imposed by Judge Real violated statute
The Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has vacated the sentence drawn by a drug dealer which was three-and-a-third years lower than the mandatory minimum. A memorandum opinion, filed Friday, countermands a sentencing determination by District Court Judge Manuel L. Real (now a senior judge) of the Central District of California.
Metropolitan News-Enterprise

CA appeals court tosses lawsuit challenging state's assisted suicide law
A California appeals court overturned a lower court ruling that found the state's assisted suicide law was unconstitutional. A panel of the Fourth District Court of Appeals in Riverside on Tuesday said doctors who brought the case did not show they were harmed because they could choose not to help terminally ill patients die.
AP

State Supreme Court rejects Richard Foster's last appeal in Dagny Knutson case
The State Supreme Court has denied Seal Beach attorney Richard Foster's final request for appeal of a fraud judgment against in favor of former Olympic swimming hopeful Dagny Knutson. The court denied Foster's request for a review of an appeals court decision earlier this year.

Orange County Register

Burden was on DUI defendant to show blood drawn in unreasonable manner
The Court of Appeal for this district yesterday reversed an order suppressing blood test results, holding that the prosecution had no burden of showing that a DUI suspect's blood was drawn in a reasonable manner. Acting Presiding Justice Kenneth Yegan of Div. Six wrote: "Here, the question is who has the burden of proof on the 'reasonable manner' issue when a valid search warrant authorizes the blood draw."
Metropolitan News-Enterprise

Governor Brown appoints 12 Superior Court judges
Therese M. Foley, 67, of Bakersfield, has been appointed to a judgeship in the Kern County Superior Court. Foley has been a sole practitioner since 1989. She served as a deputy county counsel at the Office of the Kern County Counsel in 2010 and served as a law clerk for U.S. Magistrate Judge Theresa A. Goldner at the U.S. District Court, Eastern District of California from 2008 to 2009.
Office of Governor/State of California

Prosecutor / Prosecutions

D.A.'s office will not prosecute deadly Boyle Heights crash
Citing insufficient evidence, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office has declined to file charges against a sheriff's deputy whose patrol vehicle crashed and killed two boys on a sidewalk in Boyle Heights last year. Deputy Carrie Robles-Placencia, a patrol trainee with an 11-year veteran by her side, was responding to a call involving an assault with a firearm when she hit the two brothers, who were walking home from school with their mother, according to a charge evaluation worksheet provided by the District Attorney's Office.
My News LA

10 alleged gang members charged in spree of celebrity burglaries
Ten alleged gang members are facing felony charges in connection with a series of recent burglaries at the homes of Los Angeles-area celebrities and athletes, including singer Rihanna, Los Angeles Dodgers outfielder Yasiel Puig and Los Angeles Rams wide receiver Robert Woods.
NBC4 Los Angeles

Ex-assemblyman indicted for alleged BART coffee-shop fraud
A former state assemblyman has been indicted by a federal grand jury in Oakland on charges of an investment fraud scheme related to plans for coffee shops at BART stations. Terrence Goggin, 77, now a lawyer in San Francisco, was a Democratic assemblyman from San Bernardino from 1974 to 1985.
Rockridge Patch

Supervised release revoked for suspected Calabasas and Malibu serial food burglar
A judge in downtown Los Angeles Thursday sentenced suspected serial burglar Anthony Rauda to 160 days in jail for violating the terms of his court-supervised release. He was given credit for 102 days in custody, so the 42-year-old Rauda only has to serve an additional 58 days. He will return to court Dec. 13 to face a possible additional sentence for allegedly being a felon in possession of a gun when he was arrested Oct. 10 near Malibu Creek State Park.
NBC4 Los Angeles

State liquor enforcer and consultant plead guilty to shaking down Koreatown bars
Two former officials in California's liquor agency pleaded guilty Thursday to running a bribery scheme that for years targeted karaoke bar owners in Los Angeles' Koreatown. Wilbur M. Salao, 46, and Scott Seo, 49, entered guilty pleas during a morning hearing in a downtown federal courtroom, the U.S. attorney's office said in a statement.
Los Angeles Times

Elections

Incumbent Jim McDonnell concedes to challenger Alex Villanueva in L.A. County sheriff's race
Incumbent Jim McDonnell on Monday conceded to challenger Alex Villanueva in the race to become the next Los Angeles County sheriff. Villanueva, a retired sheriff's lieutenant, is the first candidate to unseat a living L.A. County sheriff in over 100 years, according to the Los Angeles Times.
KTLA

Sheriff-elect cleans house, prepares to fire more than a dozen top staff
Newly elected Los Angeles County Sheriff Alex Villanueva will dismiss more than a dozen top-ranking administrators at the department when he takes over the job Monday, according to an email obtained by the Long Beach Post. The list of staff to be purged includes Undersheriff Jacques A. La Berge, all four assistant sheriffs and seven division chiefs, essentially gutting the current top-level management at the department.
Long Beach Post

The new L.A. County sheriff was elected as a progressive, but concerns are growing about future of reforms
In his longshot bid to become Los Angeles County sheriff, Alex Villanueva succeeded by appealing both to a heavily Democratic constituency and the rank-and-file deputies he hoped to lead. But part of his platform hinged on questioning some recent reforms that long have been a wedge between deputies and many progressive groups.

Los Angeles Times

Alex Villanueva has an even tougher challenge after unseating Jim McDonnell: being sheriff
Sheriff-elect Alex Villanueva has made history even before taking office, becoming the first challenger to oust a living incumbent Los Angeles County sheriff in more than a century (challenger Lee Baca defeated incumbent Sherman Block in 1998 - but Block had died in the final days of the campaign). Villanueva beat Jim McDonnell, who conceded Monday after having lost an early election-night lead.
Los Angeles Times

Chad Bianco: Riverside County Sheriff Stan Sniff 'acting like a child' in transition
Riverside County Sheriff Stan Sniff, who lost his re-election bid earlier this month, is not cooperating with the transition to a new sheriff, his successor said Monday. "There is not a transition," sheriff's Lt. Chad Bianco said in a Nov. 26 phone interview. "It is very unfortunate. We are now in the process of trying to work around that ... The current sheriff is doing nothing to make this at all seamless."
Riverside Press-Enterprise

Law Enforcement

Portion of Highway 101 could be named after deputy killed in Thousand Oaks shooting
State Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin and the Thousand Oaks City Council are working to have a portion of Highway 101 named in honor of Ventura County sheriff's Sgt. Ron Helus, one of 12 people killed by a gunman in the Borderline Bar & Grill mass shooting Nov. 7. Only the state Legislature can officially name a state highway, according to the California Department of Transportation.
Ventura County Star

California Democratic Party chief target of party misconduct probe
A California Democratic Party investigation is underway Monday into the conduct of Chairman Eric Bauman, the former leader of L.A. County Democrats, who is alleged to have engaged in "horrific and dehumanizing" sexual misconduct against party staff members. In a statement released Saturday evening, Bauman confirmed an investigation was underway but did not address the allegations against him.
My News LA

Santa Monica park overrun by meth users as problem spirals out of control
There is a methamphetamine crisis happening in Los Angeles County as the price of getting high hits rock bottom. Local officials estimate it now

costs just $4 a day to maintain a meth addiction, as cheap crystal meth floods local communities. "We have a meth epidemic in Southern California," said Santa Monica City Manager Rick Cole, at a recent meeting when numerous residents complained they no longer feel safe going to public parks.
Spectrum News1

Sheriff's officials say there's no indication of 'radicalization' in Borderline shooting
A motive has yet to be determined for the Borderline Bar & Grill shooting on Nov. 7 in which 12 people and the suspect died, officials said at a news conference Tuesday at the Ventura County Sheriff's Office station in Thousand Oaks. In one of the first major releases of information since the week the incident occurred, officials from the sheriff's office, FBI and Ventura County Medical Examiner's Office detailed how the suspect shot more than 50 rounds,
described the resulting chaos and confusion and spoke about the victims' chances of survival.
Ventura County Star

Suspected member of white nationalist group from Riverside County again denied bail, found to be dangerous
A suspected member of a Southern California white nationalist group that incited brawls at political rallies last year was denied bail for a second time Tuesday after a judge found that the Anza resident is a danger to the community.
City News Service

Neighborhood hate crime sparks local and city-wide condemnation
Around 9:30 p.m. this past Friday, November 23, a man in a car tried to run down two pedestrians outside a synagogue in the 300 block of N. La Brea Ave., near Oakwood Ave. The two men, who were leaving the house of worship after Sabbath services, were not injured, even when the car - as shown in security camera footage - made a second pass and tried again to hit them.
Larchmont Buzz

2018 has seen more than 1 mass shooting per month in the US
Some of the deadliest mass shootings in the U.S. this year prompted widespread national horror, including the Parkland high school shooting and the massacre at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh. News of other mass shootings, however, seemed to have only reached local audiences. There were a number of incidents where spouses or former spouses killed their partners (and sometimes their children) in Texas, Delaware, Tennessee, Maryland and California.
WFTS Tampa Bay

What Jeff Sessions's final act in office means for policing in

America
On his way out the door after being fired by President Trump, Attorney General Jeff Sessions did one last thing to seal his legacy at the Justice Department: he issued a memo . His primary target? Consent decrees, which aim to bring oversight to local police departments with historical patterns of discriminatory policing and improper use of force.
Bloomberg

Criminal Justice / Public Safety

Hate crimes against Muslims increased in 2017
Hate crimes against Muslims increased slightly in 2017 compared to 2016, according to newly-released statistics by the FBI. In addition, since 2014, religiously-motivated hate crimes have been on the rise from a low of 1,140 reported in 2014 to 1,749 reported in 2017. However, the FBI said the increased numbers in reported hate crimes is partially due to the fact that more police departments are sharing hate crime information with the federal agency.
Clarion Project

Video shows deputies returning fire on teen who reportedly fired pellet gun at them
Authorities released video Monday that shows a 17-year-old driver firing at police with an air-powered pellet gun on Halloween before police returned fire. The driver, Jose Luis Centeno Jr., was fatally wounded in the shooting. Police said they learned after the incident that he was holding a replica pellet gun, according to a news release. The shooting is still under investigation, police said in the release.
Houston Chronicle

Homeless people living in RVs still getting tickets despite federal injunction limiting San Diego's enforcement options
Homeless people living in recreational vehicles are still being ticketed in San Diego despite a federal injunction blocking one kind of enforcement, prompting advocacy groups to launch a program that helps fight the tickets with sophisticated appeals. San Diego police have obeyed the federal judge's order to stop issuing tickets under the city's vehicle habitation law, but the police have continued issuing tickets under the city's oversized vehicle law.
San Diego Union-Tribune

Why it's time to classify 911 operators as first responders
The men and women who answer 9-1-1 calls are consummate professionals. When the unthinkable occurs, they are the first contact many of us have with first responders. Before a blue and red light flashes, a siren blares, or an ambulance races, they are the individuals organizing emergency response. However, Washington does not treat 9-1-1 operators with the respect they deserve because the Office of Management and Budget classifies them as clerical workers.

The Hill

Prop 47 & 57

Why does California make it so hard for us to keep you safe?
Public safety is the No. 1 priority of Merced County and, hopefully, Merced County voters. Rightfully so. Without adequate public safety, you won't attract economic development opportunities, you won't be able to retain brilliant minds coming out of our local college campuses, and you won't be able to grow the local community. With adequate public safety, all these things and more are possible.
Merced Sun-Star

Gang murder conviction overturned
Ten years of appeals have paid off for a Delano gang member. Once sentenced to a no-parole life prison term, he will be returned to Kern County to have his case reconsidered under the more lenient rules of Juvenile Court. In 2008, Jesse Perez III was 17, a gang member and driving a stolen pickup when he and a fellow gangster encountered a member of a rival gang.
KGET

'Epidemic' of car break-ins draws California bill to assist prosecutions
Following reports of increased car break-ins in California, Sen. Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco) said Monday he will seek to close a loophole in state law that hinders prosecution. Wiener said car burglaries have reached an "epidemic" level in his hometown. He will introduce a measure, modeled on another, unsuccessful bill he carried earlier this year, that would eliminate a requirement that prosecutors prove that a car's doors were locked to get a conviction for automobile burglary.
KTLA

Reforms have made Californians less safe and cost lives
For nearly a decade, California has been sold on a series of public safety "reforms" built on a foundation of empty promises. The kind of promises told by people who want to get what they want, made to people who really want to believe what they hear. As a family law and victims' attorney, it's a story I hear all too often. A story of abuse and victimization. An abuser continuing to abuse, each time promising to change.
San Francisco Chronicle

Prop. 47 is necessary to put war on drugs behind us
I am a proud co-author of Proposition 47, the 2014 criminal justice reform initiative that was supported by 80 percent of San Francisco's voters. When the initiative passed, only 19 people were released from custody into San Francisco. Yet critics have attempted to blame Prop. 47 for every social ill short of global warming. It's long past time to

separate fact from fiction. Prop. 47 reduced simple drug possession for personal use (not drug dealing) from a felony to a misdemeanor.
San Francisco Chronicle

Prop. 47 spared offenders from prison, but they may find county jail harsher
Proposition 47's forgotten people are in dire need of relief. Low-level offenders, the people for whom our state sought to decrease penalties, have been buried under a tomb of harsher punishments. In 2014, California voters passed Proposition 47, partly to reduce overcrowding in state prisons.
San Francisco Chronicle

Initiative reformed how California tries teens, but new law removes safeguards
Most 15-year-old boys grow out of their clothes. They eventually start taking regular showers. They get bored of video games. Senate Bill 1391, a newly signed California law, is based on a dangerous contention about teenagers: that they grow out of murder. Most kids charged with a crime belong in juvenile court, with its focus on rehabilitation and positive reinforcement.
San Francisco Chronicle

The business of protection in modern California
Even with progressive measures such as Prop 47 and Trump's support of reduced jail sentences set to help even out crime, there remains a crime problem in California. While many of these problems are native to Trump-voting counties, they remain problems nonetheless, and now property crime is up 11% in LA, demonstrating the scale of the problem. LA has, historically, had generally low rates of property crime.
LA Progressive

Convictions / Sentences

Gov. Brown pardons former L.A. County state lawmaker; three refugees from Vietnam who could face deportation
A former state senator convicted of lying about his residence and three refugees from Vietnam who could face deportation are among 38 people pardoned Wednesday by Gov. Jerry Brown ahead of the Thanksgiving holiday. Brown's pardons also include a man who just lost his Paradise home in a wildfire.
AP

Brown grants clemency in 5 San Diego cases, including 2 murders
A recent round of pardons and commutations issued by the Governor's Office includes five people convicted in San Diego County cases, including two murders and a 1970 conviction for possession of marijuana. Statewide, Gov. Jerry Brown pardoned 38 people last week

and commuted, or lessened, the sentences of 70 people, his office announced.
Fox5 San Diego

Man sentenced for sexually assaulting homeless women
Authorities say a man has been sentenced to 35 years to life in prison for sexually assaulting three homeless women in Southern California last year. The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office says Charlie Nathan Paxton was found guilty in September of charges including rape, assault, kidnapping and robbery. The 25-year-old was sentenced on Monday. Prosecutors said at trial that Paxton targeted transient women in the Pomona area, east of Los Angeles.
AP

LA's notorious dine-and-dash dater sentenced to 120 days in jail
One of LA's oddest restaurant stories just reached its end last week. Labeled as the "dine-and-dash dater," 45-year-old Paul Gonzales pleaded no contest to four misdemeanor charges last Tuesday and was sentenced to four months in jail with three years probation. Gonzales allegedly left around a dozen first dates with the bill as he skipped out on payment throughout Southern California.
Eater L.A

Mom drowned her own infant daughter: She's insane, no prison
A 34-year-old woman twice convicted of drowning her infant daughter in a Santa Ana trailer park was found Wednesday to have been insane at the time of the killing and will be spared a prison sentence. Lucero Carrera was first convicted in January 2015 of drowning her 2-month-old daughter, Kimberly Gutierrez, six years ago and was sentenced to 25 years to life in prison, but her conviction was overturned on appeal.
My News LA

Convictions of two upheld for killing of man in desert
A state appeals court panel Wednesday upheld the convictions of a man and woman for the shooting and beating of a man who died nine days after being left in the desert in the Lake Los Angeles area. The three-justice panel from California's 2nd District Court of Appeal found that the evidence against Rudolfo Alcantar and Rosie Lee Morales was "strong."
My News LA

Group close to pope urges California's Brown to commute all death sentences
A Catholic group close to Pope Francis and representatives of 25 countries on Wednesday appealed to outgoing California Governor Jerry Brown to commute all the state's 742 death sentences before laving office. The Sant' Egidio peace group made the appeal together with the justice ministers of South Africa, Benin, Zimbabwe and Malaysia, and 21 lower-ranking officials from other countries at a conference on the death

penalty held in Italy's parliament.
Reuters

Man convicted of murder, sentenced to life as teen granted parole
Tony Hicks, who at 14 years old was the youngest person ever to be sentenced to a life term as an adult in California, was granted parole Wednesday nearly 24 years after the crime. Though the California Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) granted 38-year-old Hicks parole, his release is not guaranteed and a lengthy review process will take place before the Governor's office decides for or against it.
NBC4 Los Angeles

Los Angeles County

L.A. County to launch digital harassment investigation system
Building on existing technology, Los Angeles County plans to deploy an automated, digitized system during the first quarter of 2019 that will migrate sexual harassment and discrimination investigations entirely online, enable analytics and offer a securitized but single-pane-of-glass view into ongoing cases. The Investigations Case Management System will integrate cases that previously existed on two disparate systems - on the front end in its CRM; and internally, on the back end in its Investigation Tracking Management System.
Government Technology

Supes vote to boost housing support for LA's transition-age foster youth
On Tuesday, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved a motion aimed at improving housing services for foster youth transitioning to adulthood, a population at particular risk of homelessness. "Youth transitioning out of foster care have often experienced significant trauma throughout their young lives," said Supervisor Hilda Solis, the motion's author.
Witness LA

L.A.'s historic assets get a groundbreaking boost
Los Angeles has a new living document of historic resources - the largest and most ambitious such undertaking in the U.S., and one that will shape city planning for generations to come. Called SurveyLA, the citywide effort identified and evaluated historic properties, structures, districts and places that date from 1865 to 1980.
Los Angeles Times

What you need to know about typhus!
People have freaked out ever since the L.A. County Department of Public Health declared an outbreak of typhus in Downtown Los Angeles on Oct. 4. That has been followed by reports of clusters of the disease in other communities. Typhus is a flea-borne illness that, while rarely fatal, can

be super uncomfortable, and can damage some of your favorite internal organs.
Los Angeles Downtown News

L.A. councilman's wife was a paid fundraiser. Ex-aides say he assigned them to help
L.A. City Councilman Jose Huizar personally asked companies that do business at City Hall to donate to a private school where his wife was working as a professional fundraiser and also assigned his staff to help with the effort, according to interviews and documents reviewed by The Times.
Los Angeles Times

Consumer News

Holiday scams and fraud are everywhere. Here's how to stay safe when shopping for gifts and more
Fraud is something to look out for all year long, but as online shopping has increased every year, so has the number of ways to steal your holiday cheer. Today we look at some modern schemes and where you can report them. The best protection against fraud during the holidays is to keep a close eye on your financial statements and quickly dispute any unrecognizable charges.
Orange County Register

Three years after the Aliso Canyon gas leak, people are still reckoning with the effects
On October 23, 2015, the natural gas storage facility at the Aliso Canyon Oil Field reported a rupture that would become the largest methane leak in the history of the United States. The compromised well spewed for four months, releasing an unknown mix of chemicals that sickened residents and created massive displacement in the north San Fernando Valley neighborhoods of Porter Ranch and Granada Hills.
Los Angeles Magazine

California / National

He says he got away with 90 murders. Now he's confessing to them all.
Nearly every day for weeks, a white-haired man in a wheelchair, his body ravaged by diabetes and heart disease, has been escorted under heavy guard from a Texas jail cell to an interview room to speak about evil. Day by day, the authorities say, he has recounted details of long-ago murders: faces, places, the layouts of small towns.
New York Times

Political corruption again grabbing headlines in L.A.
After a brief lull in 2017, there's now another embarrassing chapter in Los Angeles County's emergence as an epicenter of American political

corruption. Los Angeles City Councilman Jose Huizar has been stripped of all his council committee assignments after having his home and office raided by the FBI earlier this month.
CalWatchdog.com

Deal with Mexico would make asylum seekers wait outside U.S. border
The Trump administration has won the support of Mexico's incoming government for a plan to remake U.S. border policy by requiring asylum seekers to wait in Mexico while their claims move through U.S. courts, according to Mexican officials and senior members of president-elect Andrés Manuel López Obrador's transition team.
Washington Post

Boston police Commissioner William Gross fires back at ACLU over gang database
A fired-up police Commissioner William G. Gross ripped into ACLU "paper warriors" for suing the city over a gang database, saying the civil rights advocates are turning a blind eye to "atrocities." "No ACLU present when we have to explain to a mother that her son or daughter was horribly murdered by gang violence," Gross wrote in a scathing private Facebook post obtained by the Herald.
Boston Herald

Get ready, California: Gavin Newsom is not Jerry Brown, from governing styles to Trump taunts to hairdos
One built a multimillion-dollar wine business and once filled the gossip columns with details of his dating life, while the other took vows of poverty, chastity and obedience before spending three years in a Jesuit seminary. One won national fame by marrying same-sex couples, while the other is known for mastering the drudgery of state government and averting financial catastrophe.
Bay Area News Group

It's been decades since California Democrats had this much power at the Capitol
California Democrats are on track to make historic gains in the state Legislature. They are on pace to control three-fourths of the Assembly - 60 out of 80 seats - a feat that has not been accomplished in 135 years, last in 1883. In the Senate, Democrats are likely to grab 29 seats out of 40, which would be the party's largest advantage since 1962 (except for a brief period in 2012).
Sacramento Bee

PG&E may not survive latest wildfire without more State help
How much of wildfire costs not covered by insurance should be paid by California's giant investor-owner utilities has been a significant issue since at least 2007. That's when wildfires ravaged northern and eastern San Diego County, killing two people and destroying more than 1,300

homes. San Diego Gas & Electric argued that it should be allowed to pass on $379 million in related costs.
Public CEO

4 high school football players charged for allegedly raping teammates with broom, prosecutors say
Four sophomore junior varsity football players from a Maryland high school have been charged with rape for allegedly sexually assaulting freshman players with a broom, according to court records. The four students, all 15 years old, are accused of viciously attacking and sexually assaulting four freshmen players with a broomstick in a locker room at Damascus High School in Maryland on October 31.
ABC6 Philadelphia

Why is it so much harder to become a lawyer in California than in New York?
The State Bar of California has done it again, failing nearly 60% of the law school graduates who took the exam in July. It was the worst outcome since 1951. And yet thousands of these graduates, if they had taken the test in virtually any other state, would now be embarking on their legal careers instead of having to prepare to take it again in February.
Los Angeles Times

Top California Democrat resigns after sexual misconduct complaints
Facing a sexual misconduct investigation and growing political pressure to step down, Eric Bauman announced Thursday that he would resign as chair of the California Democratic Party. "I have made the realization that in order for those to whom I may have caused pain and who need to heal, for my own health, and in the best interest of the Party that I love and to which I have dedicated myself for more than 25 years, it is in everyone's best interest," Bauman said in a statement.
Sacramento Bee

Society

LA County looking for volunteers to help count the homeless
Local officials are looking for thousands of volunteers to help count the homeless in Los Angeles County, an effort designed to provide more help to those on the streets. They are looking for about 8,000 volunteers to canvas more than 80 cities and 200 communities across the county. By determining an accurate count, local officials can better obtain and direct resources to help the homeless, including state and federal funds.
ABC7

Homeless should be protected by CA hate crimes laws, L.A. City Council says
Spurred to action by several serious or deadly attacks on transients this

year, the Los Angeles City Council Tuesday unanimously approved a resolution supporting any legislation that would add homeless people to the list of those protected by the state's hate crime law.
My News LA

Los Angeles officials say strides are being made in the ongoing battle against homelessness
For more than a year, Arrengton Jackson slept in her car before she was able to move into a subsidized apartment in Harbor Gateway North. On the streets, sleep didn't come easy, she said, as she braced for midnight knocks on her car window and other potential threats. "I just prayed, every night, I just prayed," the 31-year-old single woman said outside the 127th Street and El Segundo Boulevard Apartments on Monday, Nov. 27.
Torrance Daily Breeze

How cannabis could become the next real estate disrupter
For a while it looked like the best thing to bring to a neighborhood was a new Whole Foods grocery store. One study showed that homes in these neighborhoods would appreciate at a much faster rate than if they were near a Trader Joe's (and both were better than a Starbucks). Another sign a neighborhood is on the cusp of revitalization is when the yoga studios start vying for space with the arthouses.
Forbes

Pensions

CalPERS plans new way to invest in private equity
Private equity has been the highest-yielding investment for CalPERS. But it's also resulted in prison for a former chief executive, criticism because sky-high fees were not tracked, and frustration from being unable to target specific investments and shunned by some big firms. Once regarded as an alternative to stocks and bonds, private equity is moving into the mainstream as the number of U.S. companies with publicly traded stock declines, dropping by half in the last two decades from roughly 7,200 to 3,600.
Calpensions

Politicizing the portfolio
Earlier this year, even before a gunman killed 12 patrons at a bar in Thousand Oaks, there was a groundswell of calls for California's two largest pension funds to sell off their investments in gun retailers. But Jason Perez, a Southern California cop, balked. As a protest against "politically correct" investing, he decided to run for a seat on the California Public Employee Retirement System's board of directors.
Governing

It's about to get easier for millions of California workers to save for retirement

Beginning next summer, workers at California companies with no employer-sponsored retirement plan may be able to contribute part of their paycheck to an individual retirement account (IRA) through a new program called CalSavers. The program is currently in its pilot phase and is only offering Roth IRAs, but will expand to include traditional IRAs sometime in 2019.
My San Antonio

Janus

Cal Expo cop's lawsuit targets union lock on state worker paychecks

A state fair police officer is suing his union because it won't let him quit paying dues, challenging a common provision in California public employee contracts that forbids workers from leaving labor organizations while contracts are in effect. Terry Cooley of Galt filed the case in federal court this month with help from a pair of attorneys who have sued several California public unions since the Supreme Court in June handed down a ruling that bans labor organizations from collecting fees from workers who don't want to join them.
Sacramento Bee

Guns

Gun owners stock up on ammunition before California law changes

It's a new twist on Black Friday shopping. Customers are flocking to buy ammunition before a new California gun law goes into effect. It's called the "1 million round month." Just a few hours after opening its doors, Poway Weapons and Gear Range sold half of their 1.2 million rounds of ammo. "Today is a direct reflection of the law," says Danielle Rudolph, Director of Sales at Poway Weapons and Gear Range.
ABC10 San Diego

New California tax on semi-automatic guns proposed by lawmaker

A California lawmaker will push for a new tax on sales of semi-automatic firearms, with the proceeds going to support community violence prevention programs. "The gun tax will support the kind of interventions that make gun violence less likely in the first place which is exactly what we need to do," Assemblyman Marc Levine, D-Greenbrae, said in a statement Wednesday.
Sacramento Bee

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